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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/539,774	05/23/2006	Detlef Gerhard	1831.1004	4954
21171 STAAS & HA	7590 10/04/200°	EXAMINER		
SUITE 700		KRAMER, DEAN J		
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	•		3652	******
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			10/04/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Applicancy Office Action Summary 10/539,774 GERHARD ET AL. Examiner		8 2	Application No.	
Examiner			Application No.	Applicant(s)
Dearn J. Kramer Dear J. Comp. Dear J. Kramer Dear J. Comp. Dear J. Comp. Dear J. Kramer Dear J. Comp. Dear J. Dear J	Office	Action Cummon.	10/539,774	GERHARD ET AL.
The MALING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address — Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGEN, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. WHICHEVER IS LONGEN, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. **SHORT SHORT AND A SHORT SHORT SHORT AND A SHORT	Onic	e Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1 198(a). In one event, however, may a poly be limited from the mailing date of this communication. If NO period for may be specified above, the materims attatury ports of will apply and will expire SX (8) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. If NO period for major is applicated above, the materims attatury ports of will apply and will expire SX (8) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, which is the mailing date of this communication, which is the mailing date of this communication. Status 1) A Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2007. 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is replaced by the communication is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1g is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4g is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) 1g is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) 1g is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) 1g is/are objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 June 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required the drawing(s) is objected to. 9) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some confidence of the priority documents have been received	Y			3652
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DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election without traverse of the invention of Group I, claims 1-3, in the reply filed on 9/14/07 is acknowledged.

2. Claims 4-8 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 9/14/07.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nam et al. (5,765,889) in view of Kim et al. (6,068,316).

The patent to Nam et al. shows a gripper comprising two parallel fingers (12) each having a vacuum line (13) that terminates in a raised outlet (14). The Nam et al. gripper also contains three pins (20) extending upwardly from the gripper (see Figs. 2A and 2B). While the front ends of the Nam et al. fingers (12) appear to be tapered, they are not specifically described as being "flattened" as is called for in claim1 of the instant application.

The Kim et al. patent shows a gripper substantially similar to the Nam et al. device, but the Kim et al. fingers are flattened at their distal ends (see Fig. 7).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to flatten the tips of the Nam et al. fingers as taught by Kim et al. in order to allow the fingers to better fit between closely spaced adjacent wafers in a cassette. It is pointed out that the resulting gripper would contain all of the *structural* limitations as set forth in the above claims and would be *capable* of handling certain sized frames covered with film.

Drawings

5. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "raised outlet" on each vacuum opening, as recited in claim 1, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New

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Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

6. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 2, line 13, the reference to specific claims by their claim numbers is improper.

On page 3, line 11, it appears that the reference number "9" should be changed to -1--.

On page 3, line 20, it appears that the reference number "10" should be changed to -12--.

On page 3, line 28, it appears that the word "frame" should be changed to —gripper--

Appropriate correction is required.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patent to Somekh et al. (5,636,964) shows a transfer blade having adjustment pins (48).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dean J. Kramer whose telephone number is (571) 272-6926. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri..

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saul Rodriguez can be reached on (571) 272-7097. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Dean J Kramer
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3652

djk 9/26/07